

From: Mike Grimes [mailto:mikegrimes.lincoln@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2011 5:01 PM
To: FS-comments-northern-helena
Cc: Colleen M. Dowdall
Subject: Mike Horse

The entire process of selecting a repository site for placement of the tailings from the Mike Horse Mine has been flawed from the beginning due to an attempt to place these tailings on a piece of property owned by Stimson Lumber. This has caused the selection process to become completely biased and has skewed the focus of the personnel involved in this critical decision. An old adage states - for every dollar spent in the planning process two dollars will be saved in the execution of the plan. The Mike Horse Dam blew out over 35 years ago and it makes no sense to hurry up the final step in this long process of cleaning up these tailings so the BLACKFOOT WATERSHED IS NEVER THREATENED AGAIN!

Section 35 is not the right answer – it is too close to the Blackfoot, too close to tributaries of the Blackfoot, contains too much ground water, exhibits too much spring time groundwater fluctuations, and is too close to private property, some of which is immediately down gradient. Placing these tailings within close proximity of so many private property owners will significantly degrade the value and enjoyment of their property, will violate the owners right to a Clean and Healthful Environment guaranteed by the Montana Constitution, and will result in Inverse Condemnation their property.

The Upper Blackfoot Mining Complex (UBMC) is specifically defined in the 2008 federal Bankruptcy Settlement Agreement (Document 7538-1 4/25/2008, article 3, page 7, Definition of Site) in which 14 specific sections in Township 15 North, Range 6 West are delineated as the UBMC site. Section 35 is not included in this definition and is therefore not part of the defined area and therefore not included under rules of CERCLA – any further attempt to include section 35 will require a full EIS.

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